

Attorney Docket No. 21757-0002
Application No. 10/644,402

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

We claim:

1. (Currently Amended) A cover for the rear storage compartment of a vehicle, the storage compartment having a vertical front wall adjacent the cab of the vehicle, an opposite rear wall, and two bedrails forming the sidewalls of the compartment, the cover comprised of at least ~~two~~ three substantially rectangular panels, each panel comprised of a thin rigid casing attached to a plurality of structural members, the at least three panels further comprised of a center panel securely and non-hingedly mounted directly to the bedrails of the storage compartment, a front panel having an end hingedly mounted to the center panel and having an opposite unencumbered end adjacent the vertical front wall, and a rear panel having an end hingedly mounted to the center panel and having an opposite unencumbered end adjacent the rear tailgate, wherein the cover is of sufficient strength to support a significant top load, ~~and is removably mounted directly onto the bedrails of the storage compartment.~~
2. (Original) The cover of claim 1, wherein the thin rigid casing is selected from the group consisting of metals, polymers, fiberglass, and resin fiber combinations.
3. (Original) The cover of claim 2, wherein the thin rigid casing is aluminum.
4. (Original) The cover of claim 3, wherein the structural members are at least partially enclosed by the thin rigid casing.
5. (Original) The cover of claim 3, wherein the structural members are substantially horizontally disposed and in substantially perpendicular orientation with the bedrails of the storage compartment.
6. (Currently Amended) The cover of claim 5, wherein ~~at least one panel~~ the center panel is substantially secured directly to the bedrails of the rear storage compartment by removable attachment means.

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7. (Original) The cover of claim 6, wherein the removable attachment means are selected from the group consisting of C-clamps, vices, truck clamps, adhesives, tie-downs, bolts, and screws.
8. (Currently Amended) The cover of claim 7, wherein the front panel and rear panel are at least one other panel is hingedly attached to the ~~substantially secured~~ center panel by removable hinge means.
9. (Currently Amended) The cover of claim 8, wherein the removable hinge means is comprised of at least one slip joint hinge.
10. (Original) The cover of claim 9, further comprising means to render the cover substantially water resistant when closed.
11. (Original) The cover of claim 10, wherein the cover further comprises gutter means for channeling water run off as the at least one other panel is opened.
12. (Original) The cover of claim 9, further comprising locking means for locking the at least one other panel.
13. (Original) The cover of claim 12, wherein the locking means are selected from the group consisting of T-handle locks, keyed locks, slam latches, push button locks, and paddle locks.
14. (Currently Amended) The cover of claim 12, further comprising support means attached to the ~~substantially secured~~ center panel and attached to the at least one other panel for maintaining the at least one other panel in an open position.
15. (Original) The cover of claim 14, wherein the support means are selected from the group consisting of gas springs, prop rods, pneumatic canisters, spring hinges, and springs.
16. (Canceled)
17. (Canceled)
18. (Canceled)
19. (Canceled)
20. (Canceled)
21. (New) The cover of claim 12, wherein the locking means comprise locking rods mounted to a panel using adjustable rod brackets to permit the locking rods to engage under the bedrails to secure the cover to the storage compartment.

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22. (New) The cover of claim 21, wherein the locking means do not require any modification of the bedrails.
23. (New) The cover of claim 13, wherein the locking means activate locking rods that secure the cover to the storage compartment by engaging under the existing bedrails.
24. (New) The cover of claim 24, wherein the locking means do not require any modification of the bedrails.
25. (New) The cover of claim 14, wherein the support means are arranged so as to limit the travel of the front and rear panel to prevent unintended separation of the panels by preventing disengagement of the removable hinge means.